

Cyngor Tref Caereinion Llanfair Llanfair Caereinion Town Council

LLANFAIR CAEREINION TOWN COUNCIL

UPDATES NOVEMBER 2024

1.Introduction

This is a general update on the Council's activities and a report from the Town Clerk on activities and progress on projects. Weekly inspections of all the council's sites are completed and logged on the website under documents and inspections.

2.Financial

2.1 Management accounts

The management accounts up to 31st October 2024 have been prepared. The bank balances are being reported to council at each meeting. The internal audit is complete.

Any councillor wishes to see the accounts and paperwork should contact the Town Clerk who will make them available.

2.2.Audit

Audit Wales are particularly interested with the report to them for the year to 31st March 2025 in the following:

- i) Independent Review Panel for Wales returns completed (ours are done).
- ii) Health Check on the council (3 year audits) – report to Council soon
- iii) Hybrid facilities for council meetings

2.4 Grants Applications

Grant aid applications which are currently being followed up are:

- i) Deri Woods car park
- ii) Mount Field car park
- iii) Hybrid meetings
equipment

We have recently received a grant for £3,375 to cover Deri Woods planting, non-slip works, tools, the tree thinning in section A and other minor items. This was gained by the FODW for us.

Further grant applications will follow as required.

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3. Governance

3.1 Training

The training plan (as required by law) has been completed. Councillors are informed of training courses from time to time as offered by One Voice Wales.

3.2 Administration

All records and filing are pretty much up to date and in files clearly marked. Private and confidential files are kept in the top drawer of one of the filing cabinets which is locked. There is in the office, in the private drawer of the filing cabinet, a list of codes etc to operate computers, VAT, rural Wales site etc.

3.3 Inspections

All property of the council is inspected every week and recorded under 'inspections' on the website. Latest one completed on 17th November 2024

The Defibrillators are also checked weekly and a report sent online to the Circuit.

3.4 Electoral matters

One nomination was received following the election notices. Cllr Paul Wixey was therefore elected unopposed to the council.

The County Council will post a further notice in the New Year.

4. Youth

4.1 General

The youth club is going well with a good regular attendance in the younger group and a growing group in the older section. More volunteers needed and work on this is taking place. The grant aid money of £3,000pa runs out at the end of 2025. The Clerk will see if he can find some more grant money for beyond that date.

4.2 Staffing

At present we employ a youth worker (part time) and he is supported by three volunteers (two of which are relatives). Contact has been made to PAVO to seek more volunteers. No response to date. The Town Clerk has attended a workshop where we can seek volunteers. All volunteers and staff have been DBS checked where required.

4.3 Tuck shop

The youth club has a self-funding tuck shop selling canned or bottled drinks, prepacked sweets etc. All dates are checked regularly.

4.5 Accommodation

The Youth Room is becoming is currently fine for the numbers attending youth club. Alternatives such as the Cadet HQ were being considered. However it appears that there might be a cadet unit starting up again.

4.6 Youth Council

The Youth Council (following a recent council decision) is now operating within the youth club.

5. Mount Field (Trust)

5.1 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing but not too bad. Grant is being applied for to create a better car park.

5.2 Grass cutting

All under control after a difficult start to the season due to weather conditions. There has been a need for more cuts due to the weather.

6. Erw Ddwr

6.1 Tree works at Erw Ddwr

A tree report has been received and various minor works to trees will need to take place around a tree to the left towards the top as you look from the road. A recommendation and quote for this work.

6.2 Burial records

All burial records are up to date.
Income from burial services is well down this year.

6.3 Tidying the site

New 'rubbish this way' signs have been installed.
Minor repairs to tidy up the rubbish compound have been done..

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6.4 Grass cutting

All under control and looking good.

7. Section 137 works

7.1 Parc Onnen

A request from residents to cut some grass areas and repair a gate with post has been received. Works instructed but still outstanding.

7.2 Land by Fish and Chip shop

The flower beds at the above have been tidied.

8. Chapel of Rest

8.1 Double doors to the side

The double doors to the side of the chapel of rest need repair. Instructions to contractor given some time ago, works chased.

8.2 Gate to front of Chapel of Rest

The gate to the road needs to be replaced (slowly rotting). Instructions to contractor given some time ago, works chased.

8.3 Financial

The net cost of the Chapel of Rest is currently running at approx. £1,000pa. The use of the chapel has reduced over recent years.

9. St Mary's Churchyard

9.1 Path

Quotes have been sought for resurfacing the path from the telephone box to the toilets. Two quotes been gained.

PCC is being chased for a response to contributing towards the cost as it is their right of way.

9.2 Church Clock

The Friends of Llanfair Clock have completed raising funds to restore the clock The clock is now working. The VAT reclaim and final financial arrangements are in place.

10. Deri Woods/Goat Field

10.1 General maintenance

The Town Clerk does visit site every two months to meet the FODW volunteers to offer support for the work that they do.

The general maintenance is progressing with the Friends of Deri Woods. They are working to an agreed plan which Council. The meadow is progressing with new planting covered by a grant and some tree thinning has been completed

The grant gained also includes materials, tools, cost of tree thinning works (£1,500) and the planting.

10.2 Friends of Deri Woods

Works to the paths continue along with tidying after tree felling and other small projects agreed from time to time.

The FODW meet on the third Monday each month at 10am by the pumping station.

10.3 Car park

The car park has several potholes which are increasing. Consideration to some remedial works to be given.

11. Public Toilets

11.1 Water and electric supplies

The electricity supply contract has been renewed for a further 3 years at a competitive rate.

In Wales we do not have the ability to choose our water supplier so the current one remains in place.

11.2 Repairs and maintenance

A toilet roll holder has been damaged in the gents, this has been replaced.

12. Playgrounds

12.1 Glenafton Playground

No issues with the playground at present. Annual inspection report received from PCC. Fitness trail installed later in October. New bear bins in place and now emptied by the Town Clerk on his rounds. There has been some white powder dropped on some of the soft surfacing. The Town Clerk is monitoring this to see if the rain removes it all.

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13. Tennis Courts

13.1 Works planned

Repainting of the upright posts to the nets planned to avoid any rusting. Apart from general maintenance no other works planned. The surface was treated last year and the report suggested that the treatment would work for around 5 years.

14. Street scene

14.1 Seating and bin (A483 & Bridge Street)

Instructions to the contractor to complete works have been issued. Contractor instructed and chased.

14.2 Phone box Watergate Street

Damaged glass to be replaced, contractor instructed and being chased.

14.3 Street cleaning

The council has allowed for some street cleaning starting in the current financial year. Powys County Council maybe interested in helping us get up and running. To this end a meeting with PCC is being sought and a report for council has been prepared for a future council meeting.

15. Projects

15.1 Tourism display boards

The final tourism boards have arrived and installed in all locations.

16. Planning and development

16.1 Lorry traffic through town

Discussions continue with Powys County Council and the wind farm development companies regarding a possible solution are continuing. From a recent communication from Bute Energy it appears the route via Cwm Golau is the preferred route to the site.

16.2 Transmission line Cefn Coch to Frankton (Shrewsbury)

The Bute Energy wind farm site has indicated that the transmission line would be on wooden poles.

However a pre-application for a 132kva transmission line have been submitted for power lines supported by metal pylons.

The formal consultation before the planning process proceeds is being held in the spring of 2025..

16.3 Planning applications

All planning applications which are within or affect the town council area are reported to Council. When planning decisions are published these are also reported to Council.

17. Plans and monitoring

17.1 Regeneration & Place Making Plan

The town plan is in place and the Council has approved progressing with a Place Making Plan to be alongside the Town Plan. This is funded by Powys County Council. There has been slow progress.

18. Publicity

18.1 Website

The website is updated every few days and meets government guidelines. There is a private page for Councillors under contacts.

18.2 Chronicle

The next issue of the Chronicle has gone to print and is due out the beginning of the last week in November..

19. Powys County Council

20.1 Leisure Centre

The Powys County Council consultation has been completed. An announcement has been made by PCC that they are seeking to close the smaller centres September 2027. Discussions of how community groups might take such facilities over have not yet taken place.

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20.2 Future of Powys - sustainability

There is a meeting on 3rd December for Town and Community Councils to find out about the sustainability plan for Powys. Cllr Stephen Purser and the Town Clerk will be attending. A report back to council will be made at the December meeting.

20.3 Yellow Line Review

Powys County Council has confirmed that there is no planned action on the yellow line scheme in the short term.

21. Town defibrillators

The town defibrillators are checked every week and recorded on the national database. Postcodes are to be added to each external box.

22. Llanfair Partnership

The next meeting of the Llanfair Partnership is planned for the New Year

24. Bylaws

The draft bylaws are with Powys County Council for approval.

25. Events

25.1 Christmas Lights

The plan for 2024 is progressing.

26. Projects update from Annual Meeting May 2023

The status of each project approved at the Annual Meeting in May 2023 is set out at appendix A.

UPDATE OF WORKS PROGRAMME FOR 2024-2025

Proposed activity programme 2024-2025	Status
Places Plan for Llanfair to be completed (grant aid funded) For regeneration, leisure centre, tourism and a healthy Llanfair	Consultant appointed; initial meetings held. Plan preparation is under way.
Complete and start street cleaning project	Report ready for Council meeting.
Replacement of top rail on Mount Field side of Mount Field and repair netting and posts at far end of field along with post replacement far end of Mount Field	Some works completed. Posts at far end of site awaiting contractor.
New signage at Mount Field	A review of the signage is being prepared.
Repair to car park surface at Deri Woods and Mount Field	Some minor works allowed for in budget 2024/2025. Grant aid via PCC funds being sought.
Works of repair at Deri Woods and Goat Field to paths, steps and railings to continue	Ongoing with FODW.
Replace cross on top of Lychgate	Cross is with Cllr Rob Astley for making a bracket for installation.
Minor tree works to Erw Ddwr	Quote for works being sought.
Complete town street furniture painting project	Instructions given to contractor; paint obtained.
Fitness Trail installation	The fitness trail is installed.
Progress to seek grant aid to help with tennis court resurfacing	Only minor works planned.
Complete Book start Day for reception class at Llanfair	Yet to be arranged.

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Completion of installation of Tourism Maps around the town	All now completed.
Continue with progress proposals to take lorries out of the town.	Ongoing.
Complete Christmas Lights plan and implement for December 2024	Being implemented.
Banwy Estate Land asset transfer	Ongoing.
Tree works in Deri Woods	For completion November 2024.